

GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT – January 2012
By the Board of County Commissioners “Board”

Deep Creek Lake

Mr. Pagenhardt reviewed a response from the DC Lake Property Owners Association relative to a cost share proposal the Board extended to the POA and Brookfield Power to fund Phase II DCL Study.

Department of Economic Development

Chairman Raley made a public statement relative to the Executive Session conducted on this date pertaining to Adventure Sports Center International (ASCI) as follows “On this date the Board of County Commissioners met in Executive Session to discuss legal, financial and personnel implication for ASCI in regards to the default of \$3 million of capital debt obligations. During construction ASCI incurred \$3 million of loans from private lending institutions in order to address unanticipated costs during construction.” ASCI is 501 3 C Non-Profit Entity and not under the authority of the Board of County Commissioners. The financial institutions involved with the debt collection are Susquehanna Bank and First United Bank & Trust. An official and more detailed review will be made during the February 7, 2012 Public Session when additional information will be available.

Department of Financial Services

Financial Services staff presented preliminary FY 2013 Budget revenue.

Board of Education

The Board attended the GC Board of Education Public Hearings to received public commentary on the 5 Year Plan to consider the closure of Friendsville, Kitzmiller, and Dennett Road Elementary Schools.

Health Department

Youghiogheny River Watershed Assoc., partnering with Savage River Watershed Assoc., provided an update on the stream waders monitoring program. Staff from Public Utilities and Rodney Glotfelty, Health Officer, were also in attendance for this session. The Association requested that the Board support as public policy baseline and continuing water quality monitoring by volunteers and by the MD Depart. of the Environment, assist with establishing laboratory analyses capability, assist with purchase of monitoring instruments and supplies, and provide unique identification badges for qualified volunteers.

Department of Planning & Land Development

1. The Board read a statement on land use management. Director of Planning and Land Development spoke of the process the Board will undertake to review and develop a draft ordinance on countywide land use with legislative authority provided to county governmental jurisdictions under Article 66B of the Annotated Code of the State of MD over the forthcoming months.
2. The Board conducted a teleconference conference call with Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel on requested legislation proposed by the Board of Realtors and other special interest groups pertaining to natural gas registration. The Board will take this matter under advisement and make a determination as to support of this legislation.
3. The Board; Director of Planning and Land Development; and Mr. Pagenhardt met to initiate dialog and discussion on a proposed Land Use Management Ordinance. Chairman Raley explained the public commentary process for this topic and Mr. Nelson began the review from the proposed Ordinance by reciting and asking the Board for their thoughts on a number of sections.
4. The Board met with the Director of Planning and Land Development to preview and determine subsequent review sessions for the development of a Land Use Management Ordinance. The Board also determined to schedule the 2nd administrative review of the Draft Ordinance for February 7, 2012.

Department of Public Utilities

1. Updates given to the Board on the following issues: Thayerville Water System; McHenry Water System; Pee Wee Hill Water Project; Friendsville Sewer System – Maple Street Sewer Line Extension Project; DCL Western Conveyance; Administrative matters to include schedule to minimize employee overtime hours; and Water and Sewer Master Plan and Puzzely Run Project.
2. The Board met with representatives from Habitat for Humanity – Hopeland Village to review the existing water and sewer agreement.
3. A number of petitions that have been submitted from residents and property owners in opposition to public water service on Glendale Road. These properties are in the Thayerville Sanitary District/Service Area.

Roads Department

Mr. Pagenhardt presented a letter from Wisp Resort Master Association whose members consist of DC Highland, Kendall Camp, Lodestone, March Hill Road, North Camp, and Sandy Shores Heights in which a request was made that the County share in the annual funding of the maintenance cost of Wisp Mountain Road and Overlook Pass. The Board and staff had reviewed a comparable request in prior years. The Board will evaluate a number of contributing factors prior to responding to this matter.

Social Services

- 1 Close out of 2011 financial audit was completed. It was noted that the budget for 2012 will again be evaluated as part of the ongoing budget deficits with the State of Maryland.
- 2 Briefing on various departmental programs to include staffing levels and reductions.
- 3 Update of Grantsville Office and operational hours for residents and clients.
- 4 Financial collection data for child support and custodial parents.
- 5 Staff with the Department participated in fund raising events for local charities and raised money and supplies for a number of disadvantaged persons.

Solid Waste & Recycling

1. Project update to include timber harvest, Cell 4 construction, King's Run Collection Site expansion project, and other information.
2. Update on collection site sticker sale program.
3. Landfill and collection site operating hours are being evaluated to determine most convenient and well-located services.
4. Consumer, land clearing, commercial, municipal, recycling, and other waste tonnage comparison.

Western Maryland Consortium

1. Update on budget actual and projections for this year and long term.
2. Services available to persons seeking employment to include job search, application completion, training programs, educational and occupational opportunity, and other services available to the unemployed, dislocated, or underemployed.
3. Applications are now being accepted for the Summer Youth Program.
4. Update of plant closing and employee layoff of Fecheimer Company in Grantsville and what the Consortium is doing to assist dislocated workers.

Miscellaneous

1. Mount Haven Wellness and Recovery provided an update on this mental health drop-in center located in Oakland. This organization was previously titled Harvey House.
2. The Board reviewed a letter from the MD Department of Agriculture on the Forest Pest Management Program for the management of gypsy moth in Garrett County. MDA requested a financial commitment of \$37,480 cost share. The Board agreed to the cost share.
3. The Board appointed Michele Dale and Julie Yoder to the Local Management Board.
4. Mr. Pagenhardt provided an update on the vacant Bloomington Elementary School and possible sale of the building and grounds.
5. Mr. Pagenhardt presented a suggestion that the Board of County Commissioners consider including a representative from the GC Mayors Association on the Salary Review Commission. The Board agreed to the designation.
6. The Board reviewed the recent decision to the Casselman River stream monitoring funding and determined to place this matter on hold and schedule a public discussion and feedback session.
7. Garrett Trails presented an update of activities and projects to the Board: Approval and execution of License Agreement between the Board and the University of MD and Approval of Trail License Agreement between the Board and the State of MD DNR on the same motion.